

00009-22 Key Points on Potential Impacts to Critical Infrastructure - Convoy in Ottawa - 03 Feb 2022

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Colleagues,

New information in bold as of 17:00 EST, 03 Feb

Overview

- * Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the US to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- * Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, non-US essential workers who are crossing land borders must be fully vaccinated.

Key Points

Details on Demonstrations

- **As of 03 Feb:**
 - * **Approx. 70 - 100 people on Parliament Hill, approx. 200-300 people on Wellington and surrounding streets.**
 - * **There is one counter-demonstration planned for today; the demonstrators will meet at the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) HQ on Elgin Street and then move to City Hall.**
 - * **There are four potential demonstrations being planned for 05 Feb in the City of Ottawa. These are a mix of demonstrations and counter-demonstrations.**
- **Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have confirmed two convoys coming this weekend from the East, and one coming from Kingston.**
- * Demonstration continues the port of entry at Coutts, AB.
 - * Two lanes of traffic are open on the highway in the vicinity of Coutts, allowing access to the US border. – [Link](#)
 - * **Airspace restrictions have been put in place over Coutts, AB.**
 - * **A second blockade has been organized approximately 20 km north of Coutts.** – [Link](#)
- * **Additional demonstrations are planned at numerous ports of entry from the US however these are currently unconfirmed.**

- * Additional demonstrations are planned over the weekend in Quebec City and Toronto.
- * A Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned across Canada, reportedly aiming to “protest in ports and all over Canadian shipping lanes.”
 - * The movement’s Facebook page had gained over 12,000 members.
 - * The event is planned for 04 Feb at 13:00 local time at participant ports. While disruptive activity is not being considered for 04 Feb, consideration is being given to disrupting commercial marine transportation in future events should demands not be met.

Preparedness and Response efforts

- * The GOC will host Significant Event Information Sharing Protocol (SEISP) teleconference with partners at TBS and PCO on an ad hoc basis for the remainder of the event.
- * **Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is actively patrolling downtown residential neighborhoods. On 02 Feb, 30 traffic tickets and one criminal charge were laid.**
- * In a briefing to city councilors on 02 Feb, the Chief of the Ottawa Police stated policing alone might not solve the ongoing occupation of the downtown core and military aid might be necessary. – [Link](#)
 - * No Request for Federal has been received and the GOC is not aware of any conversations on this topic.
- * On 29 Jan, a NOTAM was issued for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill and has been extended until 07 Feb.
- * **On 03 Feb, a NOTAM was issued for airspace restrictions over Queen’s Park in Toronto. Restrictions are in effect until 09 Feb.**
- * OPS and OPP resources continue to address areas of tension with truckers/demonstrators and maintaining public safety is the number one priority.
- * OPS additionally reports the following:
 - No violence took place in the NCR despite national protest for a wide variety of causes.
 - Continue to avoid nonessential travel to the down town core.
- * For information on [planned traffic routes and road closures](#).
- * For updates on the [City of Ottawa road closures and traffic](#) or via social media [@Ottawa_Traffic](#) and [@Ottawa_Circule](#).

Overall Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources):

- The majority of the event has been peaceful.
- * Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- * There is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.

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